

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~19th October, 1960COCOM Document 4189 BCOORDINATING COMMITTEERECORD OF DISCUSSIONONA STATEMENT BY THE GERMAN DELEGATE REGARDING THE CONTROLS APPLIED TO  
THE SOVIET ZONE OF GERMANY13th October, 1960

Present: Belgium (Luxembourg), Canada, France, Germany, Italy, Netherlands, Turkey, United Kingdom, United States.

1. The GERMAN Delegate stated that he had received instructions to inform the Committee that, in consequence of measures taken by the authorities in the Soviet-occupied Zone of Germany as regards circulation in Berlin, the Federal Government had decided no longer to have resort to the exception procedures for deliveries to the Soviet-occupied Zone of Germany; in other words, the German authorities had decided no longer to submit exception cases involving that Zone and no longer to authorise despatches within the framework of the procedures applicable to de minimis cases and servicing cases. The Federal Government would greatly appreciate it if, similarly, the other States Members of the Coordinating Committee would no longer resort to the exceptions procedures where the Soviet-occupied Zone of Germany was concerned, so as to restrict to the maximum extent the possibilities of transfers of purchasing on behalf of that Zone to other sources of supply in Free World countries.
2. The UNITED STATES Delegate took note with interest of his German colleague's statement. The Delegate believed that his authorities would consider that the action taken by the German authorities was justified by, and a logical consequence of, illegal actions on the part of the Soviet-occupied Zone of Germany, and that the German action deserved full support.
3. The FRENCH Delegate stated that he would transmit the German Delegate's statement urgently to the competent French authorities and would not fail to inform the Committee of his Government's reactions to this very important text.
4. The UNITED KINGDOM Delegate pointed out that, as its name indicated, the Coordinating Committee had the task of coordinating the controls applied by the participating countries. The Committee's controls constituted a kind of lowest common denominator, each country, naturally, being free to operate on a national basis a stricter control system than that provided for by the Committee rulings. Thus, one of the participating countries was at present applying a particularly strict control system to a country in the Sino-Soviet Bloc. In the same way the German Federal Government was at liberty to adopt whatever measures they wished regarding, in this particular instance, the Soviet-occupied Zone of Germany. The Coordinating Committee, however, should only concern itself, the Delegate felt, with the strategic nature of the various types of exportable goods, whereas the question of deciding whether a different control system should be applied to a given country in the Sino-Soviet Bloc involved factors of a political nature and fell within the terms of reference of other international bodies. The United Kingdom authorities would not be prepared to discuss in the Coordinating Committee anything beyond the strategic nature of goods likely to be exported to the Sino-Soviet Bloc.

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5. The FRENCH Delegate felt that it would be useful to emphasise that the German Delegate's statement affected only exceptions cases, de minimis exceptions and what were known as "servicing" cases, which only involved products appearing in the International Lists, i.e., products considered to be of a strategic nature. Consequently it would seem that the German Government was merely asking the other Members of the Committee to restrict their exports of strategic products.

6. The ITALIAN Delegate stated that he would make a point of transmitting to his authorities the statement just made by his German colleague with a request for instructions enabling him to take up an official position on this important matter.

7. The UNITED STATES Delegate, replying to his United Kingdom colleague, stated ~~that~~ the stricter control applied by the United States authorities with regard to China, to which the United Kingdom Delegate had referred, could not be likened to the question now raised by the German Delegate. There was no question of extending the scope of the embargo affecting the Soviet Zone of Germany, but of the application to this Zone of the Committee's exceptions procedures. The exceptions procedures provided for a relaxation of the controls established by the Committee and the question of their application to any country in the Sino-Soviet Bloc was completely different from the issues that might be raised by the addition of items to, or their deletion from, the International Lists. Through the statement just made to the Committee, the Federal Government had drawn the attention of other Member Governments to an evaluation of the prevailing situation in the Soviet Zone of Germany, and the Delegate felt that it would be fully justified for the Committee to take account of this evaluation in applying their exceptions procedures as regards the Zone concerned.

8. The GERMAN Delegate thanked his colleagues for the views they had just expressed and, confirming the explanation given by the French Delegate (paragraph 5 above), stated that the suggestions put forward by his Government fitted quite well into the framework of the Committee's activities, since the question was one of applying exceptions procedures only affecting items on the International Lists, which by definition were considered to be strategic. The Delegate pointed out that in the course of the present meeting he was not asking for any official reaction from Delegations, adding that the German authorities would be glad at a later stage to learn the views of other Member Governments as to their suggestions.

9. On a proposal by the Chairman, the COMMITTEE agreed to resume the debate on the 3rd November.

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